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and elevations for the control of topographic surveys for military purposes. To expedite this work an allotment was made from the appropriation for the War Department to cover the expenses of the field parties employed. The chief of the division of geodesy was authorized to confer with officers of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, and officials of the Department of the Interior in regard to the proper coordination of the various operations.

Extensive surveys were undertaken, including primary triangulation, primary traverse, precise leveling and determination of differences of longitude, and good progress has been made, and the results of previous surveys have been made available by copies or in published form as promptly as possible. From April, 1917, to January, 1918, 80 per cent. of the time of the office force of the geodetic division was devoted to war work.

RECONSTRUCTION OF CRIPPLED SOLDIERS

SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS has issued a recommendation that hereafter no member of the military service disabled in line of duty, even though not expected to return to duty, will be discharged from service until he has attained complete recovery or as complete recovery as it is to be expected that he will attain when the nature of his disability is considered. The inauguration of this continued treatment will result, during the period of the war, in the saving to the service of a large number of efficient officers and soldiers who without it would never become able to perform duty. Physical reconstruction is defined as the completest form of medical and surgical treatment carried to the point where maximum functional restoration, mental and physical, has been secured. To secure this result the use of work, mental and manual, will be required during the convalescent period. This therapeutic measure, in addition to aiding greatly in shortening the convalescent period, retains or arouses mental activities, preventing "hospitalization," and enables the patient to be returned to service or civil life with the full realization that he can work in his handicapped state, and with habits of industry much encouraged if not firmly formed.

At each hospital where reconstruction work is carried on there will be a special "educational" officer, whose functions are to arrange for and supervise, under the direction of the commanding officer of the hospital, the means provided for the use of therapeutic work, such as curative workshops, classes, etc.; to act as technical adviser to the commanding officer on this subject; to recommend the development of necessary means to keep patients employed so far as it is possible to do so; to make the necessary records of work done in his department; and to have immediate charge of any special training of vocational nature which can be given with the means at hand.

These officers are to be obtained from the ranks of teachers, vocational instructors and others especially qualified, and will be selected for their training, experience and peculiar fitness for the work. Where it is possible a man will be obtained who is himself handicapped by some physical disability and who has made a success in life.

As a result of a survey made by the Surgeon-General's Office of men already undergoing reconstruction treatment in this country, it is expected that enlisted men who have completed their treatment and retraining, but who are unfitted for further field service, will be found worthy of commissions and well fitted for the work outlined in the two preceding paragraphs. No increase in the number of enlisted men in the Medical Department is anticipated for this work, the expectation being that patients, or former patients, will be used.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

We record with regret the death of Ewald Hering, the eminent physiologist, professor at Leipzig; of G. A. Lebour, professor of geology at the University of Durham, and of C. I. Istrati, professor of chemistry at Bucharest.

Dr. William Wallace Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, University of California, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society.—Professor Russell H. Chittenden, director of the Scientific School of Yale University, Professor Graham Lusk, of the Cornell Medical School and Mr. John L. Simpson, of the United States Food Administration, have been representing the United States at the inter-allied food conference in Paris.

The annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences was held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington on April 22, 23 and 24. The program included accounts of war activities in different branches of science and reports of the results of several important scientific researches by members of the academy and others. The Hale lectures were given by Professor John C. Merriam, of the University of California. His subject was " The beginnings of human history from the geologic records."—The American Philosophical Society held its annual general meeting at Philadelphia on April 18, 19 and 20. Dr. William B. Scott, professor of zoology at Princeton University, presided, succeeding Dr. W. W. Keen, who after ten years of distinguished service would not permit himself to be reelected. The general lecture was given by Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Millikan, whose subject was " Science in relation to the war." On the afternoon of April 20, there was a symposium on " Food-problems in relation to the war."